

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Millions of people who have a serious illness, take medication, or suffer from environmental or drug allergies are at serious risk if they should need medical assistance and are unable to speak for themselves. The simple medical bracelet has been used for some time to provide a warning to emergency medical personnel of some limited information. It can only provide however, a very small amount of information.

Other devices, such as the Health Watch described in United States Patent No. 5,337,290, to Ventimiglia et al, have been suggested to provide emergency medical information. This device, however, suffers from several problems. It is too complex, having a number of "modes" that must be accessed to reach the information needed. It would require a skilled operator to access the information. It is also solely a visual device, in which the information has to be read on a very small screen. There could be many circumstances where it is not possible to read the information, depending on lighting, position, or other factors.

Another device is disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,444,673, to Mathurin, which is described as an audio controlled and activated wristwatch memory and device. This device, while audio, is used to record meetings, tasks, etc. similar to a handheld recorder. The face of the device is quite complex and the information is input verbally to a recorder. This device is not suitable for Applicant's purposes for several reasons. The emergency medical information contained in Applicant's device is input by a computer. The patient, wearer, completes a form on which he or she sets forth all relevant medical information. That information is then input

to a computer which loads the information onto a recordable chip. The information cannot be changed by the patient, and it would be dangerous to allow the patient to record the information and change it if he or she desired. It is also loaded in a computer generated voice, which is much clearer than a person's voice, which may have accent's, etc. Also, Applicant's device is very small, compared to the Manthurin device and easily wearable at all times, because one would not want to be wearing the Manthurin device for any length of time, due to its size.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The audio medical emergency bracelet of the present invention acts only audibly. The important medical information for any individual is entered into the device and it is played audibly by the push of only one button. It contains approximately one minute of audio to provide whatever information is necessary to warn the health care provider. The button can simply be pressed a second, third or more times to replay the information or to play it for other providers.

Examples of the medical information provided audibly by the device are: medications and dosage, chronic illnesses, environmental and drug allergies, diabetes and insulin dosage, high blood pressure, doctor's name and number, next of kin and other critical health information.

The audio play of the bracelet can be heard above the noise of an accident scene. It can also alert the emergency medical personnel to search the wearer's wallet for a medical card or insurance information.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, several objects and advantages of the invention are as follows:

It is an object of the present invention to provide an audio medical information bracelet which may be worn by the patient at all times.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a bracelet into which emergency medical information may be stored by computer and accessed by the push of one button.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide such a bracelet which is small in size and weight, so that the patient is not inconvenienced by wearing it.

These, and other objects of the invention will become apparant from the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of the bracelet of this invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view;

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic view of the input of the information.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to the drawings, there is shown the bracelet upper cover 10 having a speaker cover 12 with holes 14 to allow the audio to be heard. Band 16 is worn around the wrist, arm, or other location on the body.

Button switch 18 actuates the play of the audio recording. A plurality of battery holders 20 hold one or more standard, circular, button batteries 22 to power the unit. Speaker 24 fits

under speaker cover 12.

PCB board 26 comprises breadboard 28 and chip 30, which provide the means to record and play audio voice recordings. Breadboard 28 is held in place by holes 32 which fit onto pegs 34
5 affixed to lower cover 36. Hole 38 through lower cover 36 provides access for connection of a cable from a computer 54 to a connection under PCB board 26, to load the information which will be audibly broadcast when button 18 is pushed. Plug 40 closes hole 38 when not in use. Door 42 provides access to change batteries 22.

10 Fig. 3 depicts computers 50 and 52, into which medical information for the patient is entered. Programs which may be used to enter the patient medical information include Word, Word Perfect, or any other word processing program. This information is then transferred to computer 54 which has a program to transfer the information from the computer onto chip 30 in the bracelet.

The information is transferred by audio cable 56 from a sound card in computer 54. The bracelet is set into a cradle 58 and the information transfer is made, in about two seconds. Computer 54 may transfer information to a plurality of cradles 58, 60, 62, 64,
20 simultaneously, by use of an audio cable attached to each cradle. Each bracelet receives information for a particular patient. Each cradle has an on-off switch.

Bracelet 10 can have a water-proof cover over the speaker cover 12 so that the bracelet can be worn in a shower or pool. The
25 batteries utilized are standard button batteries, such as A76 1.5 volt batteries. Recordable chip 30 is a standard audio chip such as an APR9301 chip manufactured by A PLUS, Inc., and will play for about 100 plays before new batteries are needed. Chip 30 holds

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I claim: